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Concern

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Cover Photo

At MSM conferences, many things happen. Topic of conversation at the Chesapeake Area spring meeting was the dress of a student from Nigeria, West Africa.

The popular delegate was A. Olubunmi Beckley, better known to his friends as Tony. He is a freshman in engineering at Howard University in Washington, D. C. He hopes to study in the U.S. for six years, then return to Nigeria.

Among the students who took a real interest in Tony's clothes was Beverly Reiber, a junior sociology student at the University of Maryland. Her home is Bethesda, Md. For more on the conference itself, see MSM in Action.

Forum

HOORAY:

Sirs:

Delighted to see the Front Page feature again (CONCERN, 29 April) and I hope you'll keep it up. Just to have these short paragraphs is a real help to those of us who just can't find time to go through the daily papers (much past Pogo, that is).

Harry Evans

Dallas, Tex.

OOPS!

Sirs:

What I can't understand is why you think you can ever begin to cover the "Front Page" in only one page of CONCERN. Too much is happening these days, and your short items are hardly news at all. It is poor journalism, and I think the waste of a page. But then, CONCERN wastes a lot of its pages from time to time. Use page 3 for something else besides a re-hash of what we've already read somewhere else.

Martha McDonald

Minneapolis

MESSAGE TO WASHINGTON

Sirs:

I don't know how I happened to be so privileged, but I got to see a copy of a telegram that I think would interest the readers of CONCERN. Here it is, dated April 27:

THE PRESIDENT
THE WHITE HOUSE, WASHINGTON

OUR CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR PROPOSAL FOR ATOM SHIP TOURING WORLD IN INTEREST OF WORLD PEACE. THIS INSPIRING ANNOUNCEMENT STRENGTHENS YOUR ATOMIC ENERGY FOR PEACE PROPOSAL. WE REJOICE IN CONTINUANCE OF THE RECIPROCAL TRADE AGREEMENTS ACT WITHOUT CRIPPLING AMENDMENTS AND CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE POSITION OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE IN OPPOSITION TO THE BRICKER AMENDMENT MODIFYING YOUR TREATY-MAKING POWER AS PRESENTLY PROVIDED FOR IN THE CONSTITUTION. WE ARE RECOMMENDING TO THE LEADERSHIP OF THE METHODIST CHURCH, SUPPORT FOR MAXIMUM APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE UNITED NATIONS CHILDRENS FUND AND FOR THE UNITED NATIONS. SUCCESSFUL NEGOTIATION BY THE UNITED STATES WITH OTHER NATIONS WILL INCREASE THE RESPONSIBILITIES AND POSSIBILITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS, YOUR SUPPORT OF WHICH HAS GLADDENED MILLIONS OF HEARTS THROUGHOUT AMERICA.

CHARLES F. BOSS, JR.
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE BOARD OF WORLD PEACE OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

I thought this was an excellent telegram. It has a good platform for world peace and a program for Methodists who are concerned about peace.

William H. Myers

Seattle, Wash.

Concern

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The front page

SOME OF THE STORIES THAT MADE HEADLINES DURING THE PAST TWO WEEKS.

◆ Government control changed hands from day to day in South Vietnam, as events moved faster than headlines could record them. Premier Ngo Dinh Diem has headed a provisional government in the absence of chief Bao Dai, in self-exile on the French Riviera. Gen. Nguyen Van Vy took over the government in a surprise and bloodless coup, on behalf of Bao Dai, but the coup collapsed. In the scramble for power, Premier Ngo Dinh Diem took over again, and the U. S. and France told the world they are prepared to "sacrifice" Bao Dai if his removal would bring stability.

◆ A weapon 100 times as powerful as the original atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima is the latest H-bomb. Civil Defense Administrator Val Peterson told the governors of 45 states in a Washington meeting that this single nuclear weapon can totally devastate 30 square miles of territory. Defense Secretary Charles Wilson told the governors "our retaliatory possibilities are very great and we are prepared to use everything we have, if necessary, and that is a great deal."

◆ By mid-summer Austria should once again be an independent nation. For ten years it has been an occupied nation—with Britain, France, Russia, and the U. S. in charge. May 2 ambassadors from these nations met in Vienna to agree on terms for Austria's freedom. Final talks are scheduled for mid-May, to iron out last difficulties in the peace treaty, and the document signing is expected later this month.

◆ "The most important conference of the century" was the comment of a high U. S. official on the recent meeting of official representatives of 29 African and Asian nations at Bandung, Indonesia. The conference brought together men representing more than half of mankind—the poorer half. Delegates ranged from the smiling Kijo Botsie in gaily colored robes of Africa's Gold Coast to Red China's stony-faced Chou En-lai, in his plain commissar-style uniform. Outsiders were impressed with the degree of unity among all

NEWS

Getting it under control

—Jensen in Chicago Daily News

delegates, the cool reserve of China's Chou, the failure of India's Nehru to win a wide following, the high level of debate, and the general desire of the group for the establishing of real peace.

◆ At Bandung, China's Chou En-lai announced that the Chinese Communists were willing to confer with the U. S. on the question of "relaxing tension" in the Formosa area. The U. S. State Department replied, "The United States always welcomes any efforts, if sincere, to bring peace to the world," then set a condition that Nationalist China must take part in any talks. However, Nationalist China expressed its unwillingness to meet with the Communists on any terms that would imply recognition of any Communist gains. Amidst all the talks and diplomatic conferences, concensus of opinion was that chances for peace at the moment are vastly improved.

◆ President Eisenhower and the Turkish ambassador signed what the White House described as "the first international agreement on peaceful use of atomic energy." Terms were not announced.

UMT bill reported out of committee

A compulsory reserve bill, which is more drastic than the U.M.T. bill defeated by Congress in 1952, was reported out of the House Armed Services Committee April 27. Debate and action in the House of Representatives was expected to follow very soon.

At CONCERN's press time, House debate had not yet started.

Introduced as HR 2967 on January 25, the bill was treated in hearings held February 8-March 4 and March 21-25. A revised bill was approved by subcommittee on March 28, printed with a new number, HR 5297, and dated March 29. Official title remains "National Reserve Plan."

In short, the approved bill gives the President power to call one million reserves at any time without consulting Congress. It requires every boy to take eight years of regular and reserve training and service. A limited quota of 250,000 may volunteer for an eight-year term, of which six months is in the regular army and seven and one-half years in weekly military drill and summer camp. All others would be drafted for eight years, of which two years would be spent in the regular army and six years in the reserves.

Misleading Reports

The *New York Times* on April 27 carried a small headline, "Youth Draft Plan Appears Beaten." The news story stated that the Department of Defense had apparently yielded and was no longer insisting that youths be drafted for six months plus seven and one-half years. Anti-conscription leaders say this story is misleading because:

1) If a boy doesn't volunteer before he is 19 for six months in the army plus seven and one-half years of weekly drill and summer military service he will be drafted for eight years anyway after he reaches the age of 19.

2) The real heart of the bill is the compulsory reserve. This bill provides for a total draft of eight years. Instead of two years as present, all boys (including those who volunteer ahead of being drafted) would have to spend a total of eight years in the army and reserves. The law now on the books says that no more than 1,800,000 may be in the ready reserves. This bill would increase the number to 2,900,000 and give the President authority to call up at least 750,000 without consulting Congress.

Say oppenents of the bill, it ha

QUESTIONS TO ASK

Opponents of the pending compulsory reserve bill (HR 5297) suggest the following questions which should be asked of Congressmen and others who are thinking about the bill:

1. If more boys than are permitted by the quota choose the six-months plus-seven-and-one-half-years program, who decides, and by what standard which boy serves six months and which serves two years? How avoid unfairness? Is the six-months program not a device for reaching below the normal draft age to get 17-year-old boys?

2. Must farm boys who live 50 to 100 or more miles from the nearest armory drive this distance each week to attend drill, or take 30 days summer military training at the height of their farm work season?

3. Must employers or the employee foot the bill for 30 days spent in summer training? Will this not work a hardship in any event on small industry?

4. Since the Pentagon and not the local civil draft board would decide which of the 2,900,000 in the Reserve are essential to science, industry, agriculture, health, etc., and therefore will be deferred in the event of mobilization, does this not put the nation's economy and welfare largely into military hands?

5. Isn't eight years of compulsion in peacetime a long time for Americans to be under military command?

6. How can an eight-year draft act which puts six million under military command (over three million in the regulars, 2,900,000 in the reserves) be reconciled with Eisenhower's talk of peace? A nation in arms is a nation getting ready for war. Why doesn't Eisenhower admit that he has no real faith or hope for peace or disarmament when he asks Congress to fasten the Prussian system on American boys for eight years of their lives?

nothing to do with defense, but is esigned to do two things: to put the ation on a war footing for purposes ot announced, and to militarize the ation. If this bill passes, there would e at all times under military command ix million men (over three million in he regular armed forces and 2,900,000 ngaged in weekly drill in the re- erves.)

The Council of the National Confer- nce of Methodist Youth continues its pposition to the compulsory reserve proposal and urges Methodist youth nd adult leaders to write their Con- gressmen to speak against HR 5297. The address is House Office Building, Washington 25, D. C.

Episcopalians and Methodists may unite

Eventual union of the Protestant Episcopal Church and The Methodist Church was predicted by key leaders early this month.

Nineteen bishops of the two churches met for two days in St. Louis to discuss church union. Bishop Ivan Lee Holt of St. Louis, vice chairman of the Methodist Commission on Union, said the Episcopal committee presented a proposal that three Episcopal bishops would assist in the consecration of Methodist bishops.

Bishop Holt said a reciprocal proposal would be presented by the Methodist committee at a meeting early next year.

He commented, "Historically, the major point of difference between the two churches since the American Revolution has been the Episcopal Church's stand that only its bishops maintain an unbroken line of succession from the parent communion of both denominations, the Church of England. If both churches accept the proposal for joint consecration of bishops, the major barrier between them would be eliminated. Apart from it, there are no fundamental differences in ritual, policy or doctrine."

150 leaders attend recreation workshop

More than 150 church leaders in the field of recreation met at the Florida Conference Youth camp in Leesburg April 13-20 to sharpen up their thoughts and skills.

Nationally known leaders taught such varied interests as nature lore, handicrafts, party planning, informal drama, music in recreation, equipment games, square dancing and singing games, folk lore and outdoor games. Special opportunities were given for training recreation leaders for older adults by Dr. Leo Rippy and children by Miss Mary Calhoun, both of the Local Church Division of the Board of Education, Nashville.

Dr. Rippy also led a daily morning session on the philosophy of recreation. Commenting on the worry and anxiety of our time, he declared, "I have no problems. Every problem is a challenge; indeed, every person is a challenge.

"This business of not having time to play is ridiculous," he continued. "Time is the one thing you have just as much of as anybody else."

Commenting on the church's interest

Caddies at the Louisville, Ky. country club attend Sunday school on the golf course's ninth hole before being hired by golfers. Teaching the boys is 38-year-old Bernie Alwes, a sign painter and former caddy at the club. The boys come from several religious backgrounds, and many have never gone to church.

in play, Dr. Rippy pointed out that Christian people are interested in the pleasure side of religious experience.

Other leaders were the Rev. Wallace Chappell and the Rev. Delbert Byrum, of the Board of Education, and the Rev. Larry Eisenberg, professor at Scarritt College, all of Nashville, the Rev. Harold Hipps and Wallace Dodd, Greensboro, N. C., the Rev. Carlton Carruth, Metter, Ga., Allen Crawley, Sarasota, Fla., Rosabell M. Mann, Bearsville, N. Y., and James Norris, Columbia University, New York City.

Hollywood plans another Bible film

It's a good story, and with the current movie trend for religious themes and biblical extravaganzas, the story was bound to come into its own. And it has.

Hollywood is making a movie about Joseph—one of the best known Old Testament characters. Star of the film is Rita Hayworth. In mid-autumn the film will be released by Columbia Studios.

A camera crew recently returned from Egypt with 20,000 feet of film, some of which will be background for the movie. Some of the scenes in this background film include ruins that were already ancient when Joseph was brought to Egypt some 1,500 years before Christ.

Publicists for the movie will no doubt use some of the following facts: Thousands of extras were used. Some 7,000 are seen in an Exodus scene alone, a shot that will make the film only briefly since the Exodus is n really a part of the Joseph story. Th movie-makers assembled caravans, r created mob scenes, and filmed peop at work in harvesting, irrigating, ar in their homes. Many of these wor methods have changed little in 3,5(years.

The movie extras were hired throug local Sheiks who contracted to suppl the people and feed them while c location. Says a reporter, sometime they forgot the latter obligatio which added realism to the famin scenes. Various Egyptian governmer departments cooperated in assemblin authentic costumes and properties.

United Nations to have tenth birthday party

Ten years ago, on 26 June 1945, th United Nations Charter was signed i the San Francisco Opera House. In i the original signatories of this histori document pledged their efforts "t save succeeding generations from th scourge of war."

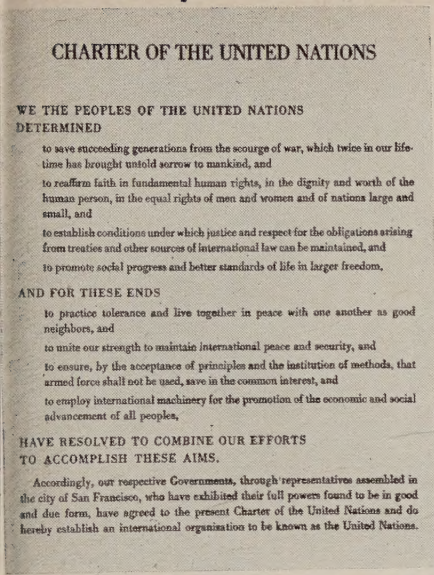
This coming June, representatives c the 60 member countries of the Unite Nations—the original 51 plus the nin which have since joined will gather i the same Opera House where they ar expected to reiterate the pledge of thei peoples to the principles embodied i the Charter.

Current plans taking form for th commemoration of the tenth anniver sary of the signing of the Charter, ar directed to give this week-long celebra tion a high-level character.

The special meeting will last fron

This historic photo showing former Secretary of State Edward Stettinius signing the Charter of the United Nations in the presence of former President Truman, was taken almost ten years ago—in San Francisco, June 26, 1945.

Ten years old



CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WE THE PEOPLES OF THE UNITED NATIONS
DETERMINED

to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind, and

to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small, and

to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained, and

to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,

AND FOR THESE ENDS

to practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbors, and

to unite our strength to maintain international peace and security, and

to ensure, by the acceptance of principles and the institution of methods, that armed force shall not be used, save in the common interest, and

to employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples,

HAVE RESOLVED TO COMBINE OUR EFFORTS
TO ACCOMPLISH THESE AIMS.

Accordingly, our respective Governments, through representatives assembled in the city of San Francisco, who have exhibited their full powers found to be in good and due form, have agreed to the present Charter of the United Nations and do hereby establish an international organization to be known as the United Nations.

20 June to 26 June and will be presided over by Dr. Eelco N. van Kleffens of the Netherlands, President of the Ninth General Assembly.

Radio carries gospel to Korea

"The Radio Voice of Christian Korea," under the sponsorship of Committee on Mass Communications there, is beaming the gospel to North Korea's 5,000,000 people under communist control, as well as to South Korea's 22,000,000 citizens. The Committee recently reported that Station HLKY in Seoul during one month broadcast 54 children's programs, 104 musical programs, 112 religious programs, 49 cultural programs, and 54 English lessons.

Beginning last February, Sunday morning broadcasts carrying English religious programs for United Nations servicemen were inaugurated. The Visual Committee reported that an audio-visual workshop trained fifteen church leaders in A-V techniques; that stewardship posters were painted by the famous Korean artist, Kin Ki Chang; and that forty showings of Christian moving pictures reached a total of 21,140 persons.

Radio station hits off-color pop songs

Radio station WDNC in Durham, N. C. bought paid ads in local newspapers to inform its listeners about a new policy. Addressed to clergymen, teachers, parents, boy and girl teenagers, the ad expressed the station's intention to bar questionable and off-color songs from all its programs.

"During the past few months, a disturbing trend has developed in the field of music," it said. "Bearing the tag of 'something new, something different,' undisguised smut has been creeping into the lyrics of the recorded tunes we are asked to introduce to you on WDNC.

"As little as a year ago, these would have been classed as 'party' records, unfit for mixed company . . . much less on the air! Today they are being released daily by 'name' recording companies as well as 'off brand' labels. These people apparently believe that the off-color double meaning has moved from the stag party and the burlesque house into the home.

"We cannot believe that it has. We do not think that you, our listeners, want the smutty lyrics heard daily in the home and family automobile. So, WDNC refuses to be a party to anything so poisonous to the mind and spiritual values of its listeners.

"The trade magazine 'Variety' has recognized the trend and its inherent dangers in a continuing series of editorials entitled 'Leer-ics.' To Variety's warning the music industry, WDNC is joining other broadcasters around the country in adding its protest.

"A Chicago Catholic High School newspaper, 'Cisca,' has inaugurated a 'Crusade for Decent Discs' which has inspired the writing of nearly 15,000 letters, most of them from teen-agers accusing deejays of programming dirty records. We bow to 'Cisca' and those who have made their objection to obscene song lyrics."

The station said it was setting up a review board to pass judgment on records deemed doubtful after they pass the station's regular screening process.

What you can do

In a country where the people have some voice in determining policy, they can insure passage or defeat of measures before Congress *only if they express themselves frequently and forthrightly.*

The following suggestions are practical for any issue before Congress, but they are given now with specific suggestions for opposing the compulsory reserve (U.M.T.) legislation.

These are effective ways of expressing your concerns in a democracy:

1. *Be informed.* Read and study the facts about the Pentagon's new conscription plans so that you can tell others why universal military conscription should not become a normal feature of American life. (Order Conscription Sourcebook for 25¢ a copy from National Council Against Conscription, 513 W. 166th St., New York 32, New York.)

2. *Write a letter to the editor* of your daily or weekly newspaper. More people read this column than any other section of the paper except the comic strips. You are more likely to get your letter published if it is short, such as 75 to 100 words, and if it tries to make only one point. Write newspapers in other cities and states. Every paper likes to have out-of-town readers and some give preference to such letters. If the letter is published, be on the lookout for any editorial comment or any letters which take issue with yours. This will give you or a friend of yours a chance to write again.

3. *Write a letter to your Congressman* (address him at House Office Building, Washington 25, D. C.) and your Senator (at Senate Office Building, Washington 25, D. C.). If you don't know the name of your Congressman, you can get it from your local newspaper or from the Board of World Peace's pamphlet, "Register Christian Opinion."

There is no one way to write. A postcard, or a letter written in pen or typewriter, even pencil, will do. Be courteous. Try to educate and inform your Congressman instead of pressuring him. Never threaten him with loss of votes or defeat. In general, there are two ways to educate him on this subject: express your reasons for opposing U.M.T., or develop clearly one argument. If he replies, write him again and follow-up the correspondence. Second, you can ask him questions, like those on page 4 of this CONCERN.

The key point is—express and register your Christian opinion where it counts—with the men who cast votes on your behalf when Congress makes our laws.

VIEWS

Last laugh?

—Tampa Morning Tribune

Something to tell you

I happen to be a U.S.-2 working under the Bureau of Town and Country Work of the Board of Missions. What does that mean? Well, settle down in a nice comfortable chair and I'll gladly sell you, oops, I mean tell you all about the U.S.-2's. I don't know how familiar you are with this business they call short term programs, but this is the way it goes.

After making the decision to choose full-time, church-related, Christian service, you have to write to Miss Alpharetta Leeper, at an address in New York you'll never forget as long as you live because you write it and read it so many times, 150 Fifth Avenue, New York 11, New York. After using all the red tape you can find and filling in all kinds of question and answer blanks, you somehow find yourself being interviewed by a regional personnel committee.

If that proves successful, then you go on to even greater heights, the Board of Missions. Acceptance there means that you are about to start on the road of the U.S.-2, becoming a part of a growing tradition which stands for service well done. That's kind of a hop, skip and jump explanation of a much more personalized and carefully thought out procedure of application, but I think maybe it gives you the general idea.

Those of us who were accepted had six weeks of special training last summer before going to our jobs. All of us had two things in common, (1) we had graduated from college and (2) we were anxious to get started as U.S.-2's.

Where did my job send me? Arkansas—

What am I doing down here? Well, just grab your duster, your Women's Society of Christian Service manual, your MYF handbook, your camping book, your preaching ideas, your spare tires, your county map, your farming handbook, your recreation manual, community organization book, and if your heart is filled with love for all people, then come along with me.

What'll we find? There are tiny churches, overflowing with love for all people ready and wanting to learn about their God. There are small MYF groups just about ready to fold up because they don't see any real reason for meeting. There is a small community where the mill has been shut down but the school is still organized and the youth haven't any place for recreation. There is a circuit of five churches with a young college student filling in as pastor. Do you suppose there are any real needs here?

Miss Lassiter

What'll we do? We attend district meetings, a part of the group ministry, where we meet representatives from all surrounding churches to plan programs for the MYF and the Woman's Society of Christian Service. We arrange for lay persons to assume responsibility for church services. We meet such personalities and folk we never want to forget, filled with a glow that only the true Christian life holds, and we gain from having been with them. On one Friday night we'll head out to one of the near-by communities because there is a final basketball game and we don't want to miss it. (Our subdistrict president is a guard.) When we can, we'll go with the home demonstration agent or welfare worker, spending time working together among the people.

Yes, there are needs and problems and days of wonder and bewilderment, but they are far outweighed by the

mountain-top experiences. Experiences of seeing where you are needed and trying to help, working with people anxiously accepting any help, and you find yourself growing as you work and get to know the youth and adults in the community.

There are such experiences as the night we were setting up the camera to show a film strip on the "Lord's Acre" plan. I picked up the small can which held the film and one little boy looked at it in amazement and asked, "Do you have to put snuff in it, too?" Or, there was the time the preacher introduced me as a "stewardess," thinking he was saying deaconess. I shall never forget the day the pretty 1955 Chevrolet the Woman's Division of Christian Service supplied for me arrived. Nor will I forget the grand women in the conference and district who help in every way possible. But the U.S.-2 has an even greater reach because the people we serve are not just Methodists, but the whole community; not just church people, but all people.

Why did I do it? It's the best, serving God's children and at the same time learning and growing yourself. It's a tremendous experience, to say the least, and I'm more than humbled by it and I'm constantly grateful that I have been given the opportunity to be here doing the best I can with my particular talents and abilities.

Now I'm not prejudiced, but I think you couldn't go wrong if you just wrote to 150 Fifth Avenue and asked about those "U, too" papers!

—BY POLLY LASSITER
Arkadelphia, Arkansas

Your life

The ultimate weapon

Military strategists and nuclear physicists talk glibly about the "ultimate weapon." They claim to have fashioned a weapon that will determine the course of history both for ourselves and for future generations.

Ten years ago they said it was the atomic bomb. In contemplating the destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki by the A-bomb they said this weapon would seal the fate of the nations. Then came the hydrogen bomb with its ominous mushroom clouds darkening the horizon of the far Pacific. Fear gripped the hearts of men everywhere. This was it. This was the ultimate weapon; the decisive weapon; the weapon that would determine the shape of things to come.

Shortly thereafter it became known that scientists were experimenting with an inter-continental missile powered with a nuclear warhead, a missile that could span the oceans, a missile that could not be stopped by any contrivance known to mortals, a missile that could reduce industrial empires to dust and rubble, and the broken bodies of millions of men, women, and children, to ashes. Here, at last, it was said, is the "ultimate weapon," the weapon that will determine whether nations survive or perish.

The military strategists and nuclear physicists who say these things are mistaken. The "ultimate weapon" is neither the A-bomb, nor the H-bomb nor the intercontinental ballistic missile. The ultimate weapon is, and always has been, in the hands of the God of history. It is this weapon, the Sword of the Spirit, which prevails against all of the encroachments of time and circumstance. It is this weapon whose sharp edge has cut through the pretensions of earthly potentates. It is this weapon that has laid low every dictator and despot who has sought to put in chains the peoples of the world. Make no mistake about it.

The military strategists and the nuclear physicists are wrong. Peoples, nations, cultures and civilizations are not, nor can they be, permanently destroyed by the weapons of war. Persia, Greece, and Rome were not destroyed by the weapons arrayed against them. They were destroyed from within. They were destroyed when the pursuit of freedom and justice was corrupted by

Methodist Walter W. Van Kirk is executive director of the Department of International Affairs of the National Council of Churches. This article is taken from an address he gave at the National Convocation of Deaconesses of The Methodist Church in Nashville, May 4.

At right are excerpts from an address to the deaconesses by Nels F. S. Ferre, professor of philosophical theology at Vanderbilt University School of Religion.

the lust of power, the shame of self-indulgence, and the sin of self-righteousness. Hitler was stopped by the Russians at Stalingrad, and by the Western Allies on the European front, but the German Reich, fashioned in the Nazi image, was utterly destroyed by the Sword of the Spirit.

As it was yesterday, so shall it be tomorrow. If the Russians, bent upon world dominion, pull the trigger of an atomic war, they may conceivably destroy our cities and, without benefit of requiem, send you and your children, and me and my children to the sepulchre of death. But they in turn will be destroyed, not by the nuclear weapons launched against them in a war of massive retaliation, but by the imponderables of God. It is time we reread the history of man's long and perilous pilgrimage upon the earth.

What does all this mean respecting the responsibility of the United States in this atomic age? It means simply this: priority must be given to those creative and curative actions by which nations are made secure against the perils by which they are beset. This is not to deny the need of our nation having an adequate defense establishment. But it will be the undoing of our blessed Republic if our government leaders, our Congress, and our people generally become so preoccupied with sharpening their bayonets, keeping their powder dry, stepping up the speed and range of their military aircraft, and improving their A-bombs, and their H-bombs and their intercontinental ballastic missiles that they have left neither the time nor the energy to dedicate themselves to the healing arts of peace.

The churches, accordingly, welcome and support such policies of government as are dictated by considerations of justice, righteousness, and reconciliation. It is in these areas where the United States will vindicate the faith of those who, in so many lands, look to our country in this solemn hour for political wisdom and moral inspiration.

—BY WALTER W. VAN KIRK

The need of life

Freedom is more than the need of our day; it is the need of life. No vocation can be Christian except it further freedom. The enemy of freedom is fear, and fear is disease of little people, people not big enough to face reality full on and be faced by it.

We need therefore, first of all, freedom from the small self that is the home of fear. Guilt both from selfish action and inaction produces fear whereas love which grows big with concern, throws out fear.

We need also freedom for social and political reconstruction. Fear of tarnished reputations has paralyzed social concern and political initiative in a time when they are most needed. Our Einsteins die whereas their persecuters seem to have all the toughness and survival value of evil. Yet the Christian Church believes in the resurrection of freedom because it believes in the resurrection of life; and life, in the final analysis, is love and for love. Christian witnesses therefore are lovers of the world whose lives are contagious with freedom and courageous with love.

We need also, above all, spiritual freedom. Freedom ultimately is of the spirit. That is the reason that the denial of freedom in Church life is man's greatest sin, the sin against God. Fear reigns in many denominations and the angels hide their faces from the darkness of confession and the blackout of our lives. No other area of life is so devoid of free souls as the religious. You must make it your mission to make freedom real and precious. Dare to live and dare to die to all else through the life of the spirit and you will work with clearer eyes and to better advantage in all areas of life.

—BY NELS F. S. FERRE

Malaya film tells youth story

How a teen-age Chinese girl from a refugee family became a Christian through contact with the Methodist Youth Fellowship is the story of a new 29-minute motion picture in color, "Ming May of Malaya."

Produced for the Board of Missions, the film was shot entirely in Malaya—the jungles of the upper peninsula and the city of Singapore. The film is available at a rental of $8 from any Methodist Publishing House.

Telling the story around which the film was based, Rev. H. G. Conger, secretary of the Missions Board's Department of Visual Education, said:

"Ming May was a member of a family who had fled interior China, left Hong Kong and gone to Malaya. They settled in the Communist-infested jungle, but later were removed by the security police to the protected village of Ampang.

"There Ming May had her first contact with Christianity through the Methodist Youth Fellowship. In time, through association with these Christian young people, she learned the answer to the question why Christians should be interested in refugees like herself. And she became a Christian.

"After finishing school at Ampang and Trinity College in Singapore, Ming May determined to pay back the debt she felt she owed to those who had done so much for her. She committed herself to a full-time Church vocation."

Famous track star has message for youth

"More and more I find young people determined to count for something, to leave an impress on their times, to live a full and helpful life. Alcohol-free standards will help them progress!"

With these words, Glenn Cunningham, holder of the indoor mile record for more than a decade, sums up his advice to youth printed in a new leaflet just off the press.

Now Dr. Cunningham, with a Ph. D. from New York University, the great track star had run the mile under 4:10 more times than all other runners combined when he retired. He captained the American track team touring Europe and the Orient in 1933 and was named "most popular member" of the U.S. Olympic team in 1936. He now spends a great deal of his time speaking to high school youth.

"The more I see of young people, the more concerned I am that they shall have the facts on which to make right and healthful choices," says Dr. Cunningham. He sets down some of those facts in a brief, readable statement, now available in leaflet form from TEM Press, 100 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington 2, D.C. Cost is $1.50 per 100 copies.

CUES

Books of Concern

Abingdon Party Parade

For the youth groups who are always looking for party plans and ideas, here is a new book that will be very helpful. Bernice Hogan has put together 27 party plans in a volume that is very attractively designed, easy to read and use. Invitations, decorations, favors and food are suggested. This is one of the most usable party-plan books to come off the press in recent years. *Abingdon Party Parade* is published by Abingdon Press at $1.95.

Worship Ways for Camp

Clarice Bowman needs no introduction to the readers of CONCERN. Former Youth Department staff member and CONCERN columnist, Miss Bowman now teaches at High Point College, High Point, N. C. She has continued her writing while at High Point, and the latest book from her typewriter has just been published by Association Press. It is *Worship Ways for Camp*, a combination book about worship and anthology of worship materials for use with children and intermediates.

This is an informative, inspiring and usable book on worship, primarily for camp but applicable to local church as well. It is a companion volume to Miss Bowman's *Spiritual Values in Camping*, also published by Association Press. Each book sells for $3.00.

California youth wins championships

Church and championships in athletics go together for 19-year-old Robert Seaman of Reedley, Calif., now a sophomore at University of California at Los Angeles.

At college he is continuing to develop the pattern of participation in both activities that characterized his high school days.

In June, 1953, Bob set a new national record of 4:21 for the high school mile race, just breaking the 4:21.2 mark set in 1934 by the famed Lou Zamperini. Since going to college, he's increased the pace to 4:14.5, and still hopes someday to run a four-minute mile himself, although others have done it.

In prep days, Bob was a 60-minute football player, at end and later at halfback, and he played forward in basketball. His track specialty was the mile, but in a single meet he set a record in the 220-yard, won the mile and was on the first-place relay team. His championship stride was featured in an eight-column picture sequence, taken from movie film, in the daily *Fresno Bee*.

Now he is concentrating on track—won the pentathlon his first two years, set a new freshman half-mile mark of 1:49.9 and has run on championship one-mile and two-mile relays and distance medley teams.

Bob was president of his local MYF. At 17, he conducted the church's morning worship service on layman's day. When he gets home now on weekends, he sings in the choir of Reedley

MYF in action

church. His mother is organist. At school he attends Westwood Community Church in Los Angeles and goes to church youth rallies in the area. In high school, he sang in a cappella choir, was in dramatics, held two class and several club offices, was student body president and most representative senior boy in 1953. In addition, he maintained an A grade average.

In Reedley, there's another Seaman coming. Younger brother Johnny has earned a total of nine letters in track, football and basketball, is in drama and choir groups, and is active in the Reedley Methodist Church.

Pittsburgh conference plans fellowship teams

Some 100 MYF leaders of the Pittsburgh Conference took part in a fellowship team training program at Grace Methodist Church, Natrona Heights, Pa., April 29-30.

Conference president Kay Farls said the purpose of the workshop was to train the teams which will work in 26 subdistricts of the conference. Youth who participated were chosen by their pastors. They will serve on teams of four youth with an adult counselor and will visit local churches to help organize new youth groups and to improve youth programs where groups are already organized.

Homer N. Clark, executive secretary of the conference board of edu-

New North Indiana Conference MYF officers are Breta Lawshe, secretary-treasurer; Phyllis Heath, v-p; Mary Ellen Cortner, faith; Phil Raisor, fellowship; Hugh Smith, witness. Missing from the picture are president Hoyt Brown, outreach chairman Wilma Briggs, and citizenship chairman Mike Yoder.

cation, said the fellowship teams will be scheduled for local church visitation through the subdistrict MYF councils.

Resource person for the training program was Argyle Knight of the Youth Department staff, Nashville.

Youth carry out 'I Belong' project

Like countless other local MYF's, the group at Humboldt, Iowa's Methodist church participated in the Lenten reading project of the MYF.

In January every youth received a copy of the study book, *I Belong*. Soon thereafter came enthusiastic reports from youth about their reading, and they had panel discussions, dramatizations and worship presentations. At one of the planning sessions some of the youth talked about wonderful things that could happen if they really lived "the Spirit of belonging to Christ." It was at this planning session that a unique follow-up project got started.

The Humboldt youth wanted to live out the challenge and message of their study book.

So they printed small tags saying, "I BELONG"—nothing else. They felt these tags would prompt their friends, both young and old to ask what it meant. And their questions gave an opportunity to say what it means to belong to Christ and the church—and to let others know that they were active in the Methodist Youth Fellowship.

They designed and printed a small pocket card to hand friends who asked about the tag, and the MYF trained its members to follow-through with a Christ-centered conversation. The pocket card carried this message: "I Belong—to a Christian fellowship that believes in 'Christ Above All.' I feel it is necessary for me to harness my time and talents to an organization that will help me find God's will in my life. I Belong to the Humboldt Methodist Youth Fellowship. If you are not already a member of a like fellowship, this is my invitation to you to join ours. May I help you?"

According to counselor Royal Bennett, the project was introduced during a Sunday morning worship service. Each of the 135 MYF members received 11 pocket cards and pinned the "I BELONG" tag on his dress or coat.

Several youth told the MYF about their conversations—on the bleachers during basketball tourney games, in stores down town, between classes at school. Adults in the community talked with the MYF counselor and asked questions about a fellowship that helped youth discuss their faith in such a way.

Most important result is a deeper faith among the youth. There is an upsurge of loyalty among MYF members, and attendance at church and MYF has jumped ten per cent. Palm Sunday at Humboldt, 144 youth attended morning meeting, 38 joined the church. They really belong to something and Some One.

New officers for the Northwest Indiana Conference MYF are (front) Joe Lee Ingram, citizenship; Margaret Lynch, faith; Joyce Fox, outreach; Karen Martin, treasurer; (back row) Bob Chancellor, fellowship; Charlene Tansey, president; Lowell Richardson, witness; Mary Ann Maines, secretary; and Ronald Dixon, v-p.

SVM study books off the press

Recently released are the study books prepared for the 17th quadrennial conference of the Student Volunteer Movement. These preparatory materials are designed for individual reading and group study, and S. V. M. leaders hope to get them into campus centers this spring and into all summer student conferences.

Perhaps the most readable and most stimulating book is *Encounter With Revolution* by Richard Shaull, a Presbyterian missionary to Latin America. The book helps students to understand the social upheaval in which the world is involved and the positive response demanded of the Christian Church as it carries out its mission in the world of nations. It has 160 pages, $1.25 in paper cover, $2.50 in permanent library edition.

An American student leader, Paul Converse, and an Indian who has been active in the student movement in his own country and in the W. S. C. F., M. M. Thomas, have written together a 64-page study booklet, *Revolution and Redemption*. It deals with a world caught in revolution and what the facts mean for the church's mission. Price 60¢.

Keith Bridston has compiled a 64-page summary of six recent books on the meaning and method of the church's mission. Some of the best thinking of recent years is brought together in this study guide, *Shock and Renewal—The Christian Mission Enters a New Era*. Price is 60¢.

MSM in action

The three study books will be sent to all persons who register for the quadrennial conference. The books are published in a special arrangement with Association Press, and will be available in denominational bookstores, or direct from the Student Volunteer Movement, 156 Fifth Ave., New York 10, New York.

MSM Roundup

◆ Chesapeake Area MSM held its annual spring conference at the Methodist camp near Churchton, Md., with 73 students from 12 campuses attending. Jameson Jones of the Nashville staff gave the platform addresses on "What Makes Methodism Different?" Rev. Howard L. Cornish, director of the Morgan Christian Center at Morgan State College, led group Bible study on the 15th chapter of Luke. New president of the area is Judy Spencer, student at the University of Maryland.

◆ Perhaps a "first" in the country, Brevard College at Brevard, N. C. is basing a scholarship award on leadership in MYF activities, as well as scholastic record, character and citizenship. Through grants from foundations and individuals, Brevard is making available 30 district scholarships in the amount of $9,000 to be awarded for the first time in 1955-56.

Chatting with leaders at Southwestern University, Georgetown, Tex. is Dr. Albert P. Shirkey, pastor of Mount Vernon Place church in Washington, D. C., and a recent speaker at Southwestern. From left, Dr. E. H. Steelman, university chaplain, Ann Lewis, Janet Fagan, Dr. Shirkey, Gordon Roe, and Donald Fagin.

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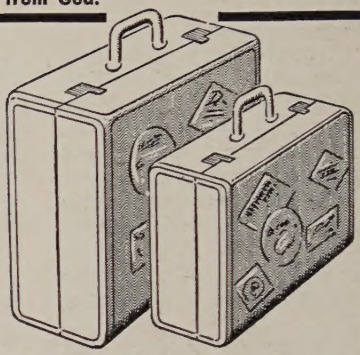

Don't take a vacation from God!

Summer time is vacation time—but don't take a vacation from God! At home or away, be sure to attend church each Sunday and spend a few minutes each day at the family altar or in private devotions.

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